

Healthy Maryland Chart Book 2002



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Foreword

This chart book offers a general assessment of a variety of public health indicators and represents a baseline perspective for monitoring Maryland's health status over the next decade. It is a continuation of Maryland's response to Healthy People – Healthy Maryland Project 2010. It provides health planners, policymakers, local health officials, and others interested in health with current measures in the ongoing process and endeavor to improve the health of Maryland citizens. It is intended to provide a descriptive snapshot of statewide trends, health disparities, and jurisdictional estimates of a broad array of health status indicators. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) has taken the lead responsibility for coordinating the effort and expertise to define, set, and monitor health status objectives that impact the health and well-being of our population. One of the primary Healthy People 2010 goals is to eliminate health disparities. Section III of this report presents some notable health disparities relevant to racial differences.

The Healthy People process began in 1979 with *The Surgeon General's Report of Health Promotion and Disease Prevention*, and continued to evolve and in 1990, *Healthy People 2000: National Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Objectives* was formed. In 2000, the *Healthy People 2010: Objectives for Improving Health* was launched with the continued mission of promoting health and preventing disease, disability, and premature death. Approximately 467 objectives within 28 focus areas compose the framework for addressing the health concerns in our society. Healthy People 2010 encouraged states and local jurisdictions to develop a Health Improvement Plan (HIP). The *Maryland Health Improvement Plan* (June 2001) addressed 17 different priority areas at the state level and a relevant array of priority areas from each of Maryland's local jurisdictions.

Section I of this chart book presents current Maryland data on population, income, poverty, health insurance, and leading causes of death. Section II reviews the statewide goals and objectives that were established in response to the Healthy People 2000 initiative of the 1990's. This section presents detailed tables to update the baseline estimates that were reported in *Healthy Maryland 2000, Volume 2* with current Maryland values.

Section III presents current Maryland, United States, and Healthy People 2010 baseline values, where available, on the Leading Health Indicators (LHIs) that are a part of the Healthy People 2010 initiative. The LHIs were established by interagency health officials, focus groups, and scientific models developed by the Institute of Medicine and the National Academy of Sciences.

A comprehensive review of the Healthy People 2010 objectives was conducted by the Office of Local Health to determine how and which objectives could be measured and tracked by existing state or national data resources. Section IV concentrates on approximately 17 of the 28 priority areas outlined in Healthy People 2010. The tables, graphs, and maps are presented in the same chapter order as used in Healthy People 2010. Where possible, Healthy People 2010 targets or the most recent U.S. estimate were used as benchmarks for Maryland values.

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